

NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center



Self-Guided Field Trip Planning Guide & Onsite Program Request Form

General Information

WHERE TO BEGIN

Located on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, the NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center welcomes you and your group to explore our engaging exhibits during a self-guided field trip. Current Visitor Center exhibits include:

- The NOAA Science On a Sphere interactive theater
- Exploring the Engineering Design Process with Sounding Rockets
- NISE Network's Sun, Earth, Universe Exhibit
- Lunar Surface Exploration Exhibit
- Outdoor Rocket Garden and Observation Deck

TO SCHEDULE A FIELD TRIP

Admission to the NASA Wallops Visitor Center is free of charge. To notify the Visitor Center of your intended field trip visit, email wff-nasa-visitor-center@mail.nasa.gov with information about the date of your visit, time of arrival, grade level(s), and number of guests (adults and youth) within your group.

CHAPERONES

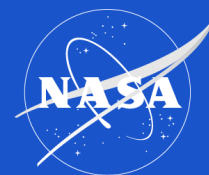
One chaperone is suggested for every ten students under the age of 18. Chaperones and educators can guide participants through the Sun, Earth, Universe Exhibit through the K-12 Teacher Field Trip Guide: https://www.nisenet.org/sites/default/files/sunearthuniverse_5_k-12_school_field_trip_guide_rev6-5-19.pdf

ARRIVAL

Buses are welcome to drop off or pick up school groups at the entrance of the Visitor Center. All school buses may park in the designated bus spaces in the parking lot. Please notify the visitor center if you need to make any adjustments to your confirmed time of arrival.

LUNCH

Groups will need to bring bagged lunches and will eat outdoors at the uncovered picnic tables by the parking lot. During extremely inclement weather, contingency plans may be made by Visitor Center staff. The Visitor Center does not have a lunch room or cafeteria. Please note that there is no food available for purchase onsite, but there is a water fountain and single drink vending machine.



Visitor Center Hours

Tuesday-Saturday
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Onsite Program Availability

February-May
Select Wednesdays*

Location

NASA Wallops Flight Facility
Visitor Center
Rt 175 Wallops Island, VA 23337

Important Information

The Visitor Center follows NASA COVID regulations. Currently, no restrictions are in place for the Wallops Facility, but regulations may change and additional guidance could be provided the week of your visit.

*All Visitor Center programs and activities are subject to cancellation or change at any time due to NASA mission operations and exhibit installations.

Wallops Visitor Center Contact Information

757.824.1344
wff-nasa-visitor-center@mail.nasa.gov



General Information Continued

VISITING THE VISITOR CENTER GIFT SHOP

Groups are welcome to visit the Gift Shop! Because the space is limited, we ask teachers and trip leaders to please consider the following:

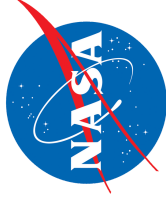
- Stagger groups so there is no more than 12 students in the store at a time. Groups may visit the gift shop during their scheduled exhibit hall time or during lunch time.
- Before your trip date, please let us know that you would like to visit the Gift Shop so that we are prepared to accommodate your group.
- Occasionally, the Gift Shop is closed for seasonal scheduling and routine inventory checks.
- Please ensure that students are supervised by an adult while in the Gift Shop.



ROTATIONS THROUGH VISITOR CENTER

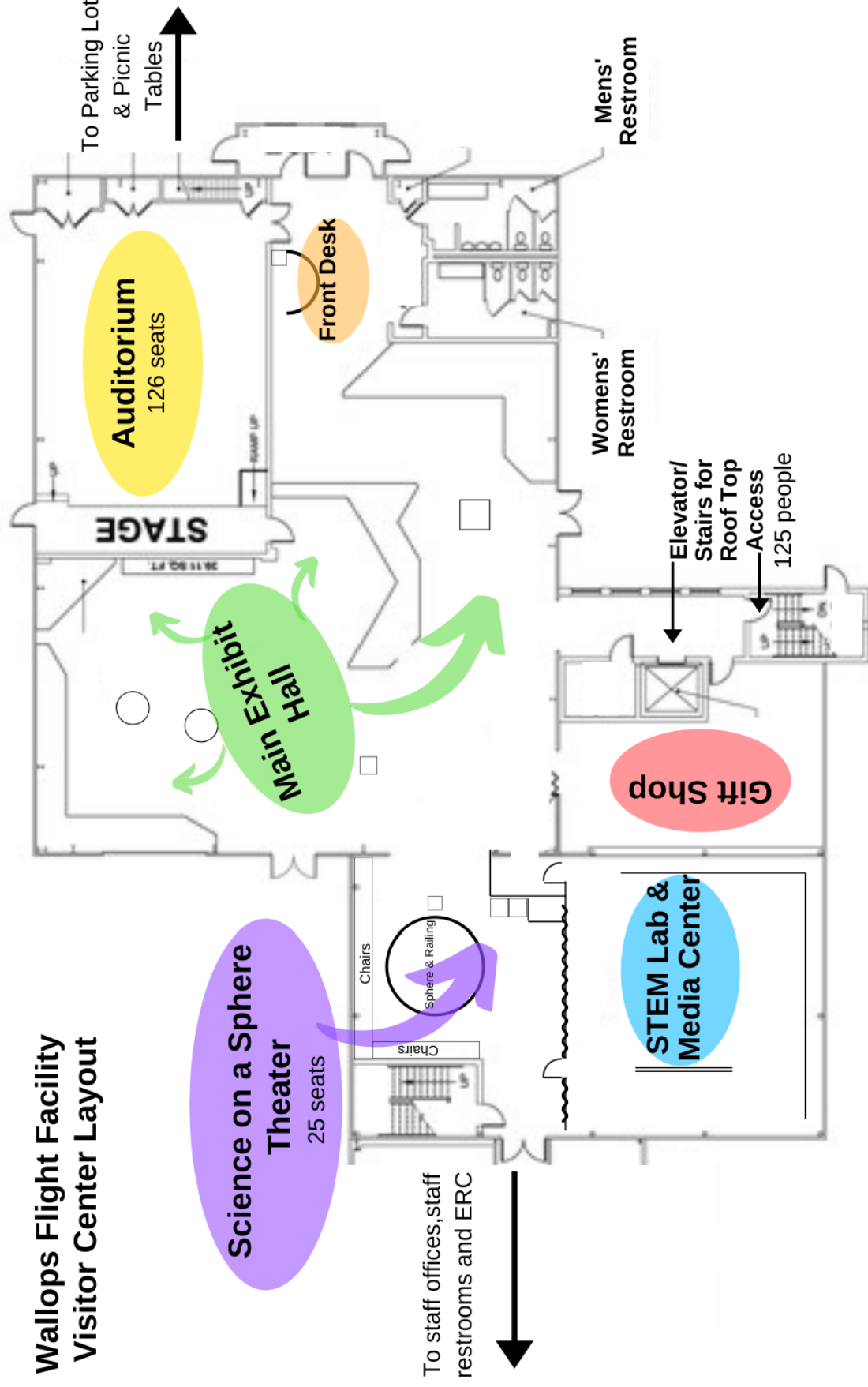
To provide enough time and space for your students to maximize their field trip experience, students can be placed into smaller groups to rotate through the various exhibit spaces. Refer to the rotation schedule below as an example of a field trip group rotation.

| | Group 1 | Group 2 | Group 3 | Group 4 |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10AM | Arrival/Restrooms | | | |
| 10-10:25 AM | Science On a Sphere | Sun, Earth, Universe Exhibit | Outdoor Rockets | Lunar Surface Exhibits/Gift Shop |
| 10:25-10:50 AM | Sun, Earth, Universe Exhibit | Science On a Sphere | Lunar Surface Exhibits/Gift Shop | Outdoor Rockets |
| 10:50- 11:15 AM | Lunar Surface Exhibits/Gift Shop | Outdoor Rockets | Science On a Sphere | Sun, Earth, Universe Exhibit |
| 11:15-11:35 AM | Outdoor Rockets | Lunar Surface Exhibits/Gift Shop | Sun, Earth, Universe Exhibit | Science On a Sphere |
| 11:35-11:55 AM | Lunch | | | |



Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center Map

Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center Layout



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Wallops Visitor Center Contact Information

757.824.1344

wff-nasa-visitor-center@mail.nasa.gov

Onsite Program Requests

A free onsite program may be added to your field trip experience based on program availability.

ELIGIBILITY

Onsite programs are only available for non-profit organizations, public or private schools, educational institutions, homeschool groups, and civic groups.

Groups may not charge participants a fee to attend the program, with the exception of a fee that only covers the cost of transportation.

- All onsite programs are 60 minutes in duration.
- Hands-on programs are for a maximum of 30 participants.
- Assembly programs are for a maximum of 100 participants.
- Groups must consist of a minimum of 15 students.
- A maximum of two, subsequent sessions of the same program can be booked by the visiting organization, with a 15-minute reset period between sessions.

Program options are listed below by grade level.

REQUESTING AN ONSITE PROGRAM

Field trip requests must be submitted at least 4 weeks in advance.

admission to the NASA Wallops Visitor Center is free of charge. To notify the Visitor Center of your intended field trip visit, email **wff-nasa-visitor-center@mail.nasa.gov** with information about the date of your visit, time of arrival, grade level(s), and number of guests (adults and youth) within your group.

CHAPERONES

Our staff encourages and appreciates chaperone involvement, but strongly encourage chaperones from providing answers and too much assistance during activities.

WEATHER

Come prepared for variable weather all year as select field trip programs make use of outside spaces. Being prepared with items like warm layers or sunscreen will ensure a successful trip to the Visitor Center. Biting insects are prevalent in the warmer months, so insect repellent spray can be handy! Do NOT apply insect spray or aerosol sunscreen inside the Visitor Center.

TO SCHEDULE AN ONSITE PROGRAM-

1. Review the field trip planning guide and ensure that your group is eligible and choose the day, time, and program that works for your group.
2. Complete the fillable "Onsite Program Booking Form"
3. Submit the completed form to wff-nasa-visitor-center@mail.nasa.gov.



NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center **Field Trip Add-On Programs**

Select, onsite programs may be added to your field trip experience when booked in advance.



Hands-On Programming

60 minutes

Up to 30 participants

K-2nd Grade

- Stomp Rocket Rumble
- Imagination Playground

3rd-5th Grade

- Seltzer Rocket Splatter
- Parachute Design

6-8th Grade

- Strawkets: Air-powered Rocket
- Rigamajig Engineering
Spacecraft Challenge



Assembly Programs

60 minutes

Up to 100 Participants

Explore Solar System and Beyond

Inquiring Minds

K-2nd Grade

Stomp Rocket Rumble *(Forces, Motion, Technology)*

Some rockets carry science tools-not scientists-into space! In this program, your budding rocket scientists will explore sounding rockets and basic forces as they build and launch a stomp rocket.

Imagination Playground *(Creativity, Motor Skills, Communication)*

If your students like to tinker, build, and create, they'll love Imagination Playground! Using big blocks, gears, chutes, and hinges, they'll work together to explore simple machines and build cosmic creations.

3rd-5th Grade

Seltzer Rocket Splatter *(Forces, Motion, Chemistry, Art)*

Propel toward the skies as we explore rockets and experiment with fuel ratios to maximize rocket height! Participants will launch on a goldenrod paper platform, allowing them to create and take a unique art piece.

Parachute Design *(Inquiry, Forces of Flight, Design, Math)*

Students learn how NASA Wallops Flight Facility tested the latest parachute used to land the Perseverance Rover on Mars, then explore the principles of flight and balancing of forces as they design a parachute that must safely deliver a payload.

6-8th Grade

Strawkets: Air Powered Rockets *(Forces and Motion)*

Explore the basic parts of a rocket and work through the engineering design process to aim for a target using our high-powered straw rocket launchers.

Rigamajig Engineering Spacecraft Challenge *(Solar System, Engineering, Technology)*

Students work in teams to design and construct a spacecraft set to explore a mysterious location within our solar system.

ASSEMBLY SHOWS

Assembly programs are adapted to the specified grade level of participants.

EXPLORE SOLAR SYSTEM & BEYOND

Participants explore the origin, components, forces, and scientific exploration of our local solar system "neighborhood" in space.

INQUIRING MINDS

Use your thinking cap to predict what happens in our intriguing science demonstrations and to explain an outcome!